

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 9271

E. O. 11652(GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: UNHRC AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CHILE

REF: USUN 3554

1. THE EMBASSY HAS READ WITH INCREASING FRUSTRATION CABLES REPORTING THE IMPASSE BETWEEN THE UNHRC WORKING GROUP (WG) AND THE GOC. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, IT APPEARS THAT THE USG MIGHT USEFULLY MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT TO BRING SOME REASON INTO THEIR RELATIONSHIP, AIMING AT AN AGREEMENT FOR A VISIT OF TWO OR THREE WG MEMBERS TO CHILE AFTER--OR INDEED, DURING--THE UNGA.

2. AT THIS POINT WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER THE BOOBY PRIZE SHOULD GO TO THE GOC OR TO ALLANA. THE FORMER OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT WANT TO SERVE AGAIN AS A GUINEA PIG FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BY PERMITTING A WORKING GROUP VISIT. THUS THERE HAS BEEN A QUESTION OF GOOD FAITH BEGINNING WITH PINOCHET'S BAN OF THE WG IN JULY 1975. BUT NEITHER DOES THE WG GENERATE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN ITS HONESTY OR ITS CAPACITY TO DEAL OBJECTIVELY WITH THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE DOUBLE STANDARD SO EFFECTIVELY CONDEMNED BY AMBASSADOR GARMENT, THE INTRUSION OF EGOS SUCH
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AS ALLANA'S INTO THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES, AND THE RECENTLY

REPORTED (GENEVA 7294) ANTICS OF UNHRC DIRECTOR MARC SCHRIBER (HE DEFENDS CHANGES IN A REPORT OF A SUB-COMMITTEE SESSION TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE GDR, USSR AND URUGUAY)-- ALL THIS DETRACTS FROM THE UNHRC'S LEADERSHIP ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS.

3. ALL THIS SAID, THERE MAY YET REMAIN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AGREEMENT ON A CHILE VISIT. REFTEL REPORTS THAT THE CHILEAN INVITATION FOR A VISIT BY TWO WG MEMBERS WAS STILL OPEN AS OF EARLY SEPTEMBER. SERGIO DIEZ HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY THREE MEMBERS CHOSEN BY THE WG ITSELF. THE WG CONTINUES TO DEMAND A VISIT BY ALL FIVE MEMBERS, HEADED BY CHAIRMAN ALLANA, WHO IS PERSONAN NON GRATA IN CHILE.

4. UNTIL NOW OUR GUNS HAVE BEEN TRAINED ON THE CHILEANS. WE HIT THEM HARD (SANTIAGO 7614), AND IT MAY BE THAT THEIR COMPROMISE OFFER IS THE RESULT. THE WG HAS NOT BEEN THE SUBJECT OF LIKE PRESSURE, AND IT HAS NOT COMPROMISED.

5. REGARDLESS OF THE MERITS OF THE POSITION OF EITHER PARTY, WE STILL ASSUME THAT THE US WOULD FAVOR A VISIT BY THE WG TO CHILE IF THIS IS THE CASE, WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME FOR THE USG STRONGLY TO URGE THE UNHRC WORKING GROUP TO MAKE SOME MEANINGFUL COMPROMISE FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE OBVIOUS STUMBLING BLOCK IS ALLANA'S PRICKLY PERSONALITY, AND HIS PRECONCEIVED (AT LEAST IN CHILEAN EYES) PREJUDICES. A VISIT BY WG MEMBERS WOULD AT A MINIMUM CALL THE CHILEANS' BLUFF, AND MIGHT WELL IMPROVE THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND. MOST IMPORTANT, IT WOULD ESTABLISH A SIGNIFICANT PRECEDENT IN THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD.

6. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INSTRUCTING GENEVA AND NEW YORK TO PRESS THE WORKING GROUP TO AGREE TO A VISIT TO CHILE BY THREE MEMBERS, EXCLUDING ALLANA. IF IT REFUSES, THE USG SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE NOTE WHEN THE SUBJECT IS DISCUSSED IN THE UNGA.
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